

Easement

S-7
Colonel George Handy House
Princess Anne
private

1805-1806

Standing at the east end of Washington Street and on axis with Beckford is Colonel George Handy's two-and-^{one}~~1~~-half story frame house, built in 1805 after George Handy purchased a six-acre lot then adjoining the Town of Princess Anne. In consideration of "one hundred and sixty pounds, twelve shillings and six pence," George Wilson Jackson transferred six acres located between Matthias Jones's lot and the lands of William Gilliss Waters (Q/211).

With the transfer of property in June of 1805, it is thought George Handy initiated the construction of this fine Federal period house within the year. Uniform layers of beaded weatherboard siding, exposed brick firewalls and superior Federal style woodwork support this building date. As originally built, the four-room plan main house was joined to the two-story frame kitchen by a single-story hyphen or colonnade. During the late nineteenth century the colonnade as well as the roof of the main house and kitchen were completely rebuilt. Another story-and-~~1~~²-half was added to the colonnade, a two-story bay was attached to the south side of the main block, and the roof systems were reworked.

In spite of the exterior modifications, the interior of the main house has remained essentially unchanged. Similarities in woodwork found in this house and other Federal period dwellings, including the Teackle Mansion and the Old Brittingham house, suggest the same master craftsman. The floor plan follows a four-room arrangement with a stair hall located in the northwest corner and the parlor directly behind. Two rooms, each heated by a corner hearth, divide the south end of the first floor.

The two-story kitchen, built at the same time as the house, survives with a beaded joist ceiling and a large cooking hearth. Beaded weatherboard siding and an exposed common bond brick firewall mirror the early nineteenth-century features of the main block.

Also significant to the property is the only original log outbuilding to remain standing in Princess Anne. The square log structure has half-dovetailed corners and a pyramidal roof. Due to the tight nature of the well chinked logs and the absence of any louvered openings, the building was probably used as a smokehouse.

After Colonel Handy's death in 1820, his widow, Elizabeth, sold the property to Elizabeth A.W. Waters for three-thousand dollars (GH 1/19). William E. Waters inherited the house and lot from his mother, and in 1866 William E. and Anna M. Waters conveyed the parcel to Hampden H. Dashiell and William T.G. Polk, partners trading under the name of H.H. Dashiell and Co. (LW 10/609).

After the Civil War, the house was purchased by Mary D.H. Langford, wife of Benjamin Langford (LW 17/409), in whose hands the property remained for more than a half century. The Langfords were probably responsible for the nineteenth-century reworking of the house. During the second half of the twentieth century the house has been occupied by the Wilsons, Cohns, and most recently the Dennises. Mary Value Dennis Clark purchased the property from the Cohns in 1970 (255/133).

Easement

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. S-7

Magi No. 2000072304

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Colonel George Handy House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Beechwood Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Princess Anne

☐ vicinity of

congressional district First

state Maryland

county Somerset

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both
Public Acquisition
☐ in process
☐ being considered
☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. John Dennis

street & number Beechwood Street

telephone no.:

city, town Princess Anne

state and zip code Maryland 21853

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court

liber 255

street & number Somerset County Courthouse

folio 133

city, town Princess Anne

state MD. 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Sites Inventory

date 1967

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis

state MD. 21401

7. Description

Survey No. S-7

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Colonel George Handy House Description

The Colonel George Handy house stands on the east side of Beechwood Street at the intersection of Washington Street in Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built c.1805, the four-room plan main house is supported by a common bond brick foundation, and it is sheathed with beaded weatherboards. The steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof, rebuilt during the late nineteenth century, has extended eaves. Attached to the back of the main house is a two-and-a-half story dining room/kitchen section, and extending farther east is the former two-story kitchen. It is apparent from architectural evidence that the middle section was a hyphen or colonnade which joined the main house to the two-story kitchen. During the post-Civil War decades the middle section was raised to its current height and finished inside with Victorian period doors and moldings. Evidently it was during this same period that the roof to the main block was reworked. Accompanying the house is a full-dovetailed log smokehouse covered by a pyramidal roof.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six over six sash windows with louvered shutters. A single-bay gable porch covers the entrance bay where a six-panel door is topped by a three-light transom. The transom is decorated with small comma-shaped corner brackets (exactly like the transom decoration of the Brittingham house, S-11). The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced six over six sash windows, and the roof slope is marked by two six over six gable roofed dormers.

The north and south sides of the main block are somewhat different. The north side is three bays deep with six over six sash windows in each end bay, and a narrow four over four sash window fills the center bay. The left (east) portion of the wall between the two windows is marked by an exposed firewall of five-course common bond brick. Lighting the second floor are the same six over six or four over four sash windows. In contrast to the rest of the house, the gable end is covered with fishscale shingles. A pair of six over six sash windows flank the interior end brick chimney which is finished with a corbelled cap.

The south end, on the other hand, has a two-story bay window that fills the eastern bay. A twentieth-century flat-roofed addition covered with beaded siding also extends from the south side. The other features remain consistent with the north side of the house.

The east end of the main block is largely covered by the two-and-a-half story dining room/kitchen wing. This middle section is sheathed with plain weatherboards and is lighted by six over six sash windows. Single six over six sash gabled dormers mark the north and south roof slope. Attached to the north side of this section is a single-story addition covered with beaded siding as well. Now used as a dining room this portion of the house was formerly a side porch that was enclosed during the mid twentieth century. A screened-in porch extends from the south side of the

8. Significance

Survey No. S-7

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1805

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The Colonel George Handy house is a fine Federal period house erected around 1805. The two-and-a-half story, four-room plan frame dwelling belongs to a collection of approximately a dozen houses that date to the early nineteenth century. Significant to the Handy house is its finely crafted Federal style woodwork including an original stair, mantels, chair rail, baseboard, as well as a contemporary kitchen and log smokehouse. The house was altered during the late nineteenth century with a rebuilding of the entire roof system, and at the same time the hyphen, which connects the house and kitchen, was raised and modified. The log smokehouse is the last original log outbuilding to remain in Princess Anne.

History and Support

For 1160..12..6, George Handy purchased from George Wilson Jackson six acres, "adjoining the town of Princess Anne," in June of 1805 (Q/21). It is reasonable to believe from the architectural evidence that George Handy (later known as Colonel George Handy) began construction of his house within the same year. After his death in 1820, George Handy's wife, Elizabeth, sold the property in 1822 to Elizabeth A. W. Waters for \$3,000 (GH 1/19), who in turn bequeathed the property to her son, William E. Waters.

On December 20, 1866, William Waters transferred, "all that lot or parcel of land together with the improvements thereon in the town of Princess Anne...situate on the east side of the street leading from Bombay Hook Bridge to the Railroad Depot," to Hampden H. Dashiell and Company. Two years later the town property was sold again to Marie B. Handy (LW 11/469), who, by her trustee, William Stewart, transferred the house to Levin T.H. Irving in 1874 (LW 14/665). In 1877, Mary D.H. Lankford bought the house, and it remained in the Lankford and interrelated Wilson family for the next sixty-two years. It was probably during the Lankford/Wilson family occupation (1877-1959) that the roof was rebuilt and the middle section was reworked. Edward and Doris Cohn purchased the property in 1959 from Oscar and Meta Wilson (194/489), and Mary Value Dennis Clark acquired ownership in 1970 (255/133). Mrs. Clark bequeathed the house and grounds to her son and daughter-in-law, John and Mary Alice Dennis.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-7

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust

date 1/7/86

street & number 424 N. Somerset Avenue

telephone 651-0077

city or town Princess Anne

state Maryland 21853

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

service wing as well. The old two-story kitchen, the easternmost part of the house, did not escape partial rebuilding. The roof to this two-story one-room plan section was rebuilt along with the rest of the house; however, the lower portions of the wall remain covered with beaded weatherboards. Six over six sash windows light the kitchen. Consistent with the main house is the five-course common bond brick fire-wall that marks the east end of the kitchen wing. A narrow brick stack rises from the gable.

The main house is divided by a four-room plan which survives with a large percentage of its early nineteenth-century woodwork. The northwest room contains the quarter-turn Federal period stair with its slender newel post and rectangular balusters that support a simply molded handrail. The stringer is undecorated, and the space below the stringer is treated with flush panels. A flush panel door opens into the space below the first landing.

From the hall, a replacement double-door opens into the parlor, while a flush six-panel door provides access to the southwest room. Both doors are framed by early nineteenth-century molded surrounds, and the room is fitted with a high molded baseboard. The parlor is highlighted by the most elaborate Federal period woodwork. Centered on the north wall is the projecting chimney breast which has a Federal style mantel with reeded pilasters, a five-part frieze, and a broken mantel shelf. The end friezed blocks are reeded, while the center tablet is plain. Rows of gouge-work trim the upper and lower portions of the frieze, and a rope molding frames the hearth. The room is also fitted with period baseboard, chair rail, and cornice moldings. The east wall of the parlor is fitted with bookshelves.

The southern two rooms are similarly finished with corner hearths and less elaborate Federal period mantels. Six-panel doors framed by molded surrounds provide access between rooms.

The second floor is divided into four rooms; however, a center passage separates the north and south chambers. The stair rises to a spacious second floor hall which provides access to the attic stair. Rising in the northwest corner the attic steps are enclosed behind a flush six-panel door. The north bedrooms are largely finished in a plain manner with plastered walls. The north bedroom is the only second floor room with a fireplace. The mantel consists of a molded surround which supports a molded mantel shelf.

The attic is finished off with sawn lath and plaster walls. The stair rises against the north wall and leads to two principal rooms. A turned baluster handrail marks the top of the stair. The most significant feature of the attic is a reused flush six-panel door that survives with a coat of oak graining.

The middle section has been partially remodeled for a modern kitchen and bathroom. On both the first and second floors, Victorian moldings frame four reused six-panel doors. A back stair rises in the middle section. At the first landing a square post is finished with a pointed head, and square balusters support a simple handrail. A cellar stair descends to the excavated space beneath the middle section and the old kitchen. The supportive structure for the middle section dates to the late nineteenth century.

The old kitchen interior is distinguished by a series of exposed beaded ceiling joists and a large cooking hearth. To the left of the hearth is a small winder stair enclosed with vertical beaded boards. The second floor has been subdivided into smaller rooms.

Standing immediately north of the house is a pyramidal roofed log smokehouse, the last original log outbuilding in Princess Anne. Supported by a raised common bond brick foundation the full-dovetailed log structure is covered by a wood shingle pyramidal roof. The roof is topped by a small finial. The south end is pierced by the only opening, a double louvered door surrmounted by a transom light. Inside the logs are slightly blackened, and the new roof structure is clearly apparent.

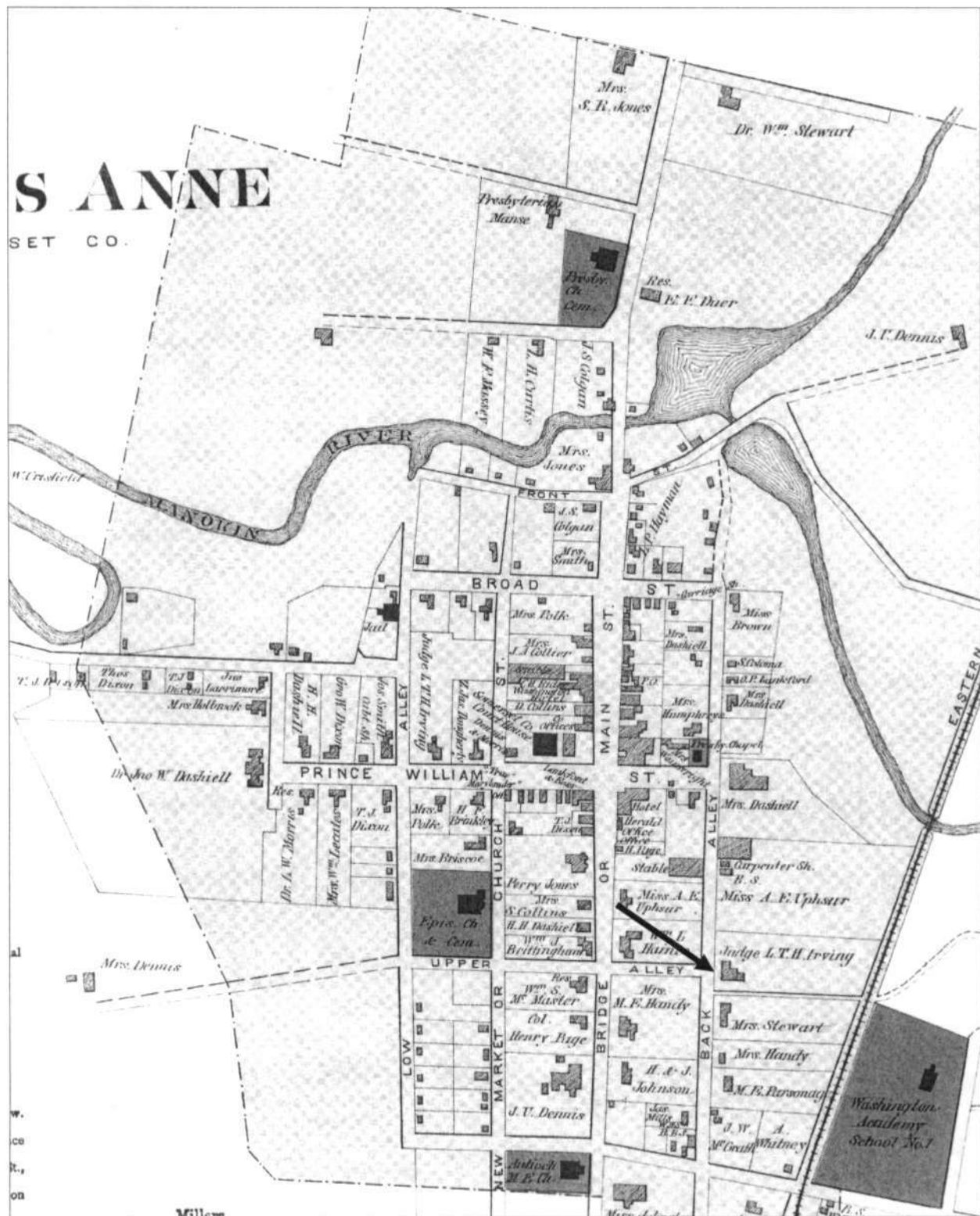
S-7

Colonel George Handy House (Cohn House, Dennis Property)

11728 Beechwood Street, Princess Anne

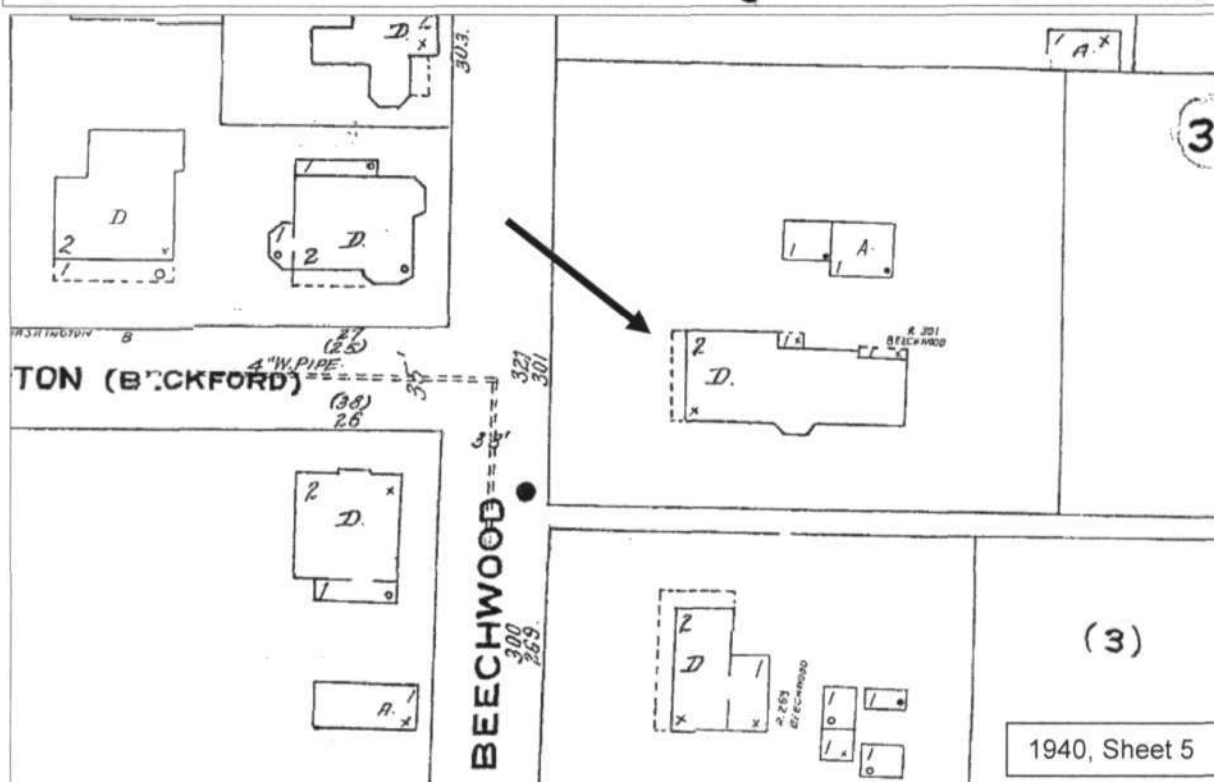
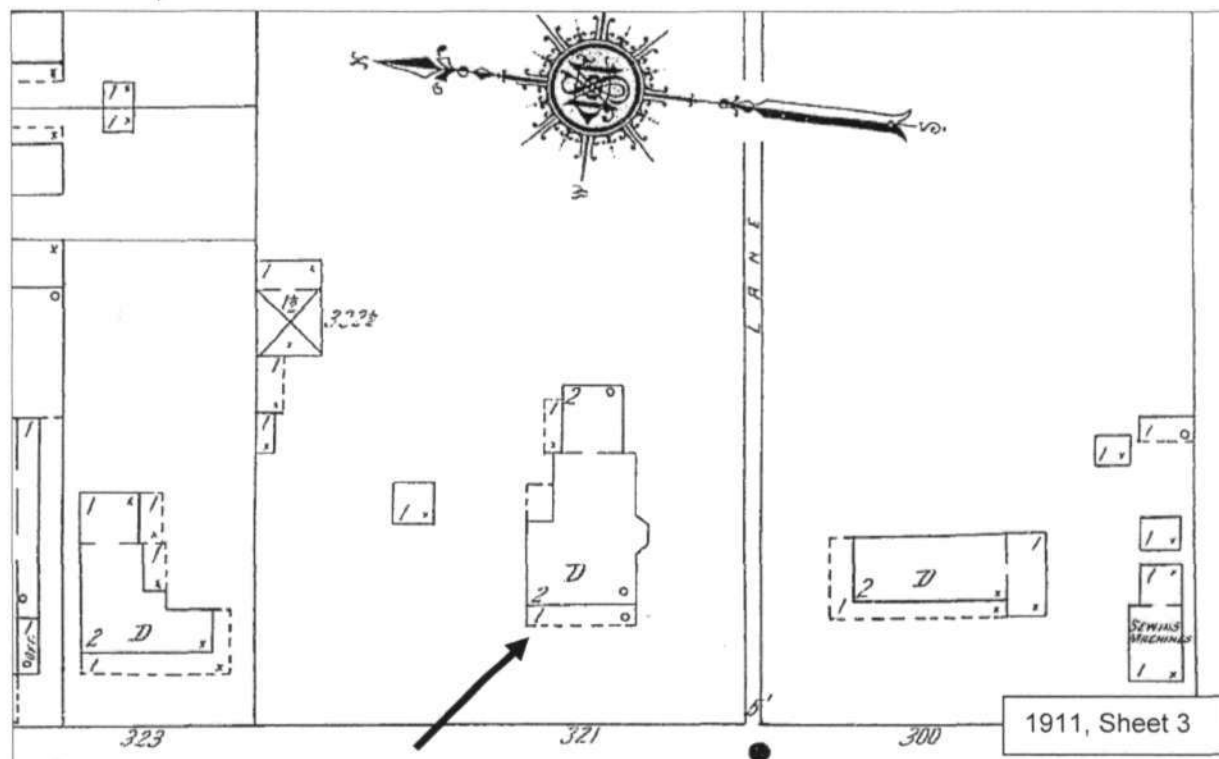
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson (1877) Atlas of Wicomico, Worcester, & Somerset Counties, Maryland.

Princess Anne detail



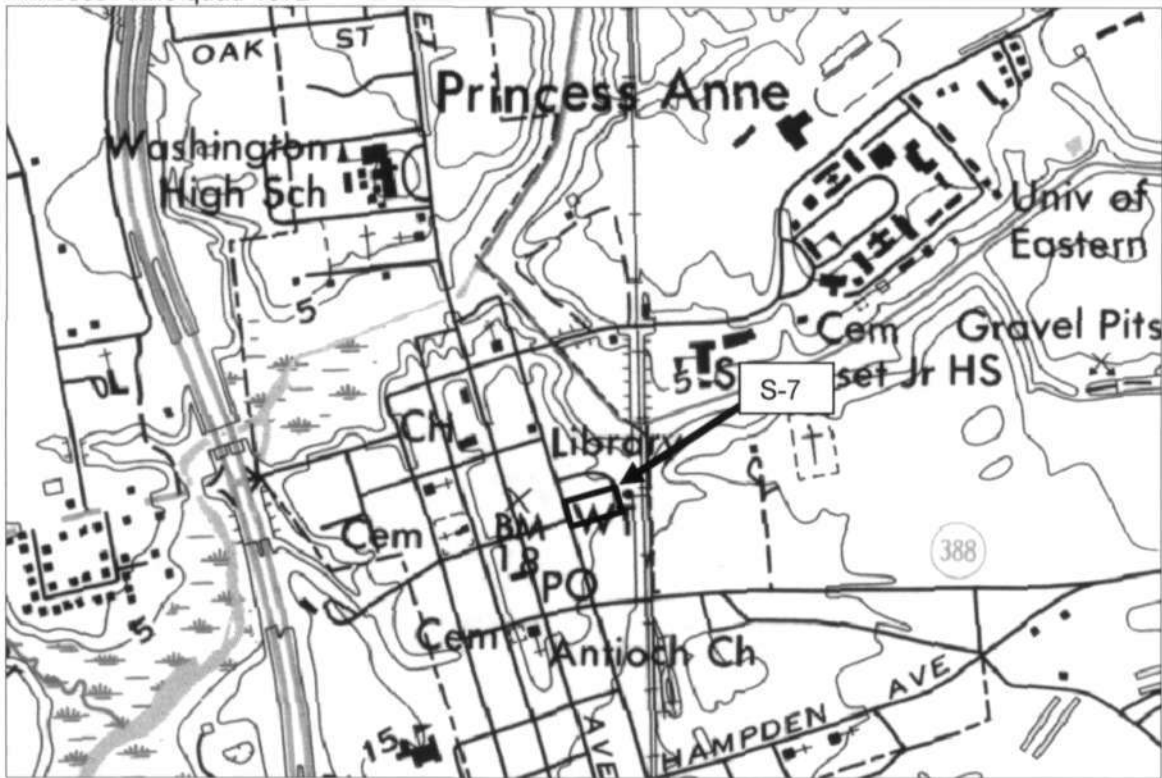
S-7

Colonel George Handy House (Cohn House, Dennis Property)
11728 Beechwood Street, Princess Anne
Sanborn Maps



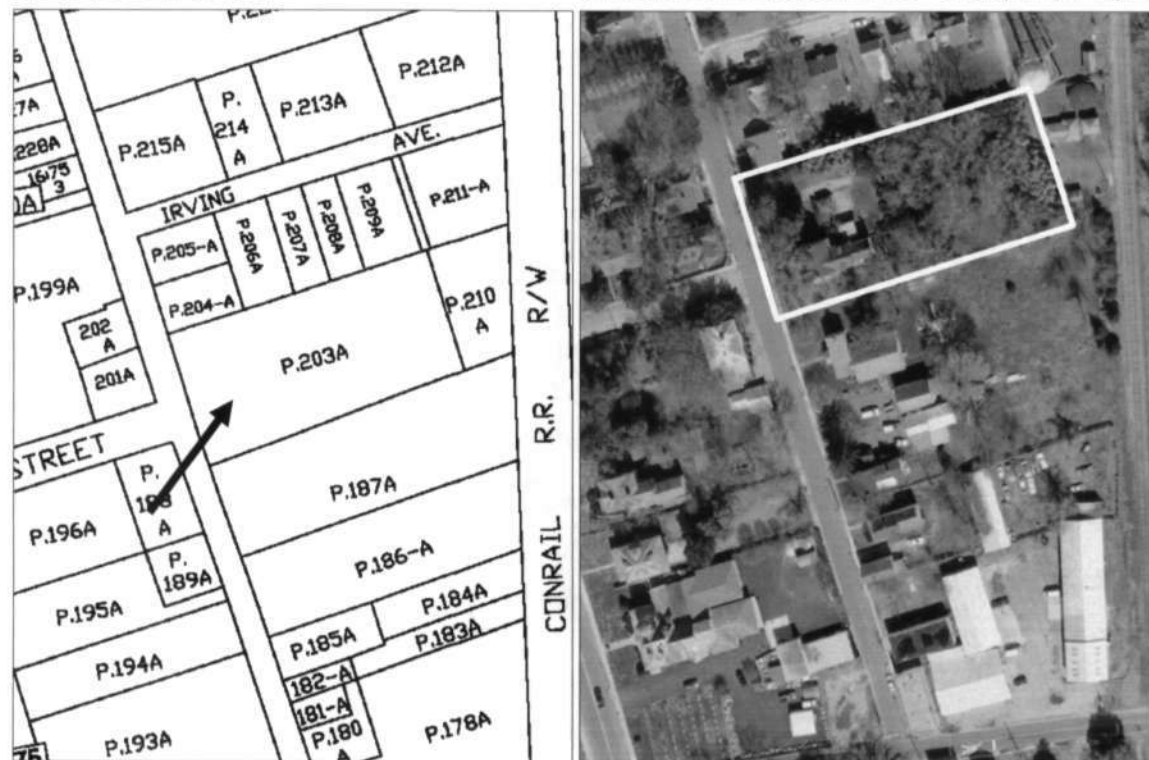
S-7

Colonel George Handy House (Cohn House, Dennis Property)
11728 Beechwood Street, Princess Anne
Princess Anne quad 1972



Tax Map 202, P. 203A

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010





S-7
Colonel George Hand House
Princess Anne, MD Quadrangle, 1972



Cohn House (Handy House)

S-7

West Elevation

Princess Anne, Maryland, Somerset County

Photographer - Paul Touart - 3/84

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



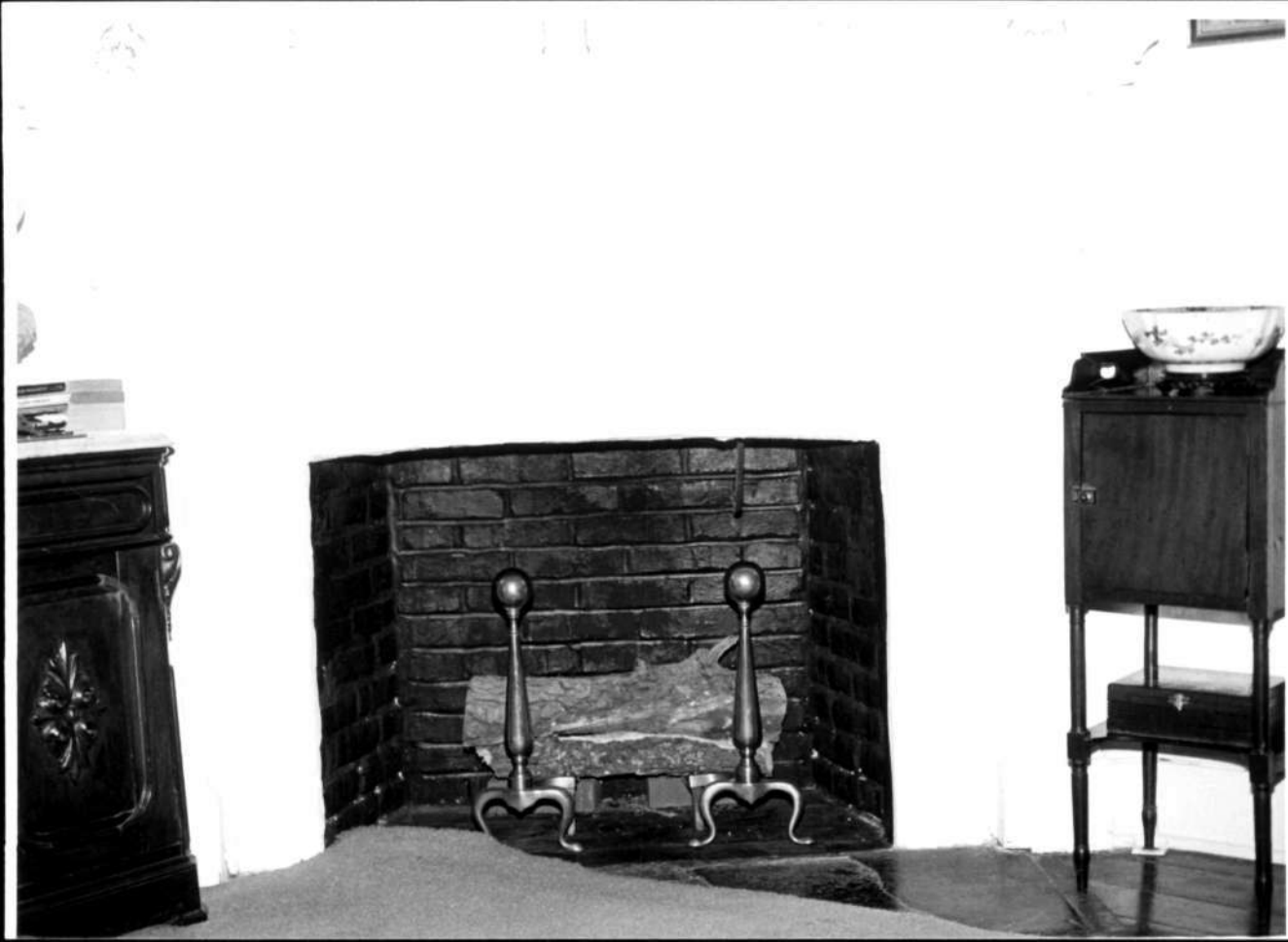
Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset County, Md.
Northwest Elevation
2/86 Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Hist. Trust



Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
East Elevation
2/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
Northeast Elevation
2/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
South Room Mantel
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Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
Hall
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Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
Stair
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Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
Front Door Transom
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Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
Parlor Mantel
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Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
Parlor Mantel Detail
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Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland
Log Outbuilding
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Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Colonel George Handy House S-7
Princess Anne, Somerset Co.,Md.
Log, Smoke House
2/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

2060075304

Ease ment

1. STATE COUNTY TOWN <u>Princess Anne</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Washington Street</u> <u>Beachwood St. at head of</u> ORIGINAL OWNER --- ORIGINAL USE <u>Dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Mr. & Mrs. Cohn</u> PRESENT USE <u>Dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Beaded Clapboard</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>S-7</u> 2. NAME <u>Cohn House</u> <u>S-7</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1810</u> STYLE <u>Country Federal</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>No</u> <p>This is a large frame house with an A-roof whose pitch has probably been altered at some time. The house is three bays wide with a central door with an overlight. This overlight contains delicate Federal tracery cut in thin wooden filigree. There are three dormers on the front roof of the house which probably date from Victorian times. There is an enclosed chimney at each end of the house but the brick is exposed at the first storey level by the omission of the clapboards. Two smaller telescoping additions are attached to the rear of the house.</p> <p>The grounds of the Cohn house are very well cared for and there is an unusual well-house --brick three quarters of the way up and then horizontal shiplap siding --and all this capped by a pyramidal roof.</p> <p>The Cohn house is in excellent condition and though somewhat altered over the years, it still presents a pleasing 19th century appearance.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior <p>Excellent</p>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Paul A. Brinkman</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>1/8/67</u>	



S-7
Cohn House

Photographed by
DANIEL G. CHURCH